

Refine Search

Search Results -

Terms	Documents
((purchas\$ or buy\$) with (member\$ or club)) and @pd<=20001122 and (member\$ with (cost\$ or fee or charge))	18

Database:

US Pre-Grant Publication Full-Text Database
 US Patents Full-Text Database
 US OCR Full-Text Database
 EPO Abstracts Database
 JPO Abstracts Database
 Derwent World Patents Index
 IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletins

Search:

L6

Refine Search

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Search History

DATE: Friday, January 23, 2004 [Printable Copy](#) [Create Case](#)

<u>Set</u> <u>Name</u> side by side	<u>Query</u>	<u>Hit</u> <u>Count</u>	<u>Set</u> <u>Name</u> result set
	DB=PGPB,EPAB,JPAB,DWPI,TDBD; THES=ASSIGNEE; PLUR=YES; OP=OR		
<u>L6</u>	((purchas\$ or buy\$) with (member\$ or club)) and @pd<=20001122 and (member\$ with (cost\$ or fee or charge))	18	<u>L6</u>
	DB=USPT; THES=ASSIGNEE; PLUR=YES; OP=OR		
<u>L5</u>	L3 and (member\$ with (cost\$ or fee or charge))	20	<u>L5</u>
<u>L4</u>	L3 and membership	33	<u>L4</u>
<u>L3</u>	L2 and l1	94	<u>L3</u>
<u>L2</u>	705/26,27.ccls.	1074	<u>L2</u>
<u>L1</u>	((purchas\$ or buy\$) with (member\$ or club)) and @ad<=20001122	2372	<u>L1</u>

END OF SEARCH HISTORY

Hit List

Clear	Generate Collection	Print	Fwd Refs	Bkwd Refs
Generate OACS				

Search Results - Record(s) 1 through 10 of 18 returned.

- ☐ 1. Document ID: JP 2000218023 A
-: Invalid display element.

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference			Claims	KWIC	Draw Des
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- ☐ 2. Document ID: JP 2000126436 A
-: Invalid display element.


Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference			Claims	KWIC	Draw Des
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- ☐ 3. Document ID: JP 2000113033 A
-: Invalid display element.

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference			Claims	KWIC	Draw Des
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- ☐ 4. Document ID: JP 11260025 A
-: Invalid display element.

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference			Claims	KWIC	Draw Des
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-  ☐ 5. Document ID: JP 11149503 A
-: Invalid display element.

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Claims	KWIC	Draw Des
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☐ 6. Document ID: JP 11113987 A

:- Invalid display element.

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Claims	KWIC	Draw Des
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☐ 7. Document ID: JP 08313653 A

:- Invalid display element.

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Claims	KWIC	Draw Des
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☐ 8. Document ID: JP 08161544 A

:- Invalid display element.

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Claims	KWIC	Draw Des
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☐ 9. Document ID: JP 06325249 A

:- Invalid display element.

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Claims	KWIC	Draw Des
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☐ 10. Document ID: JP 06131386 A

:- Invalid display element.

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Claims	KWIC	Draw Des
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Fwd Refs

Bkwd Refs

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Terms	Documents
((purchas\$ or buy\$) with (member\$ or club)) and @pd<=20001122 and (member\$ with (cost\$ or fee or charge))	18

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WEST Search History

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DATE: Friday, January 23, 2004

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<input type="checkbox"/>	L5	L3 and (member\$ with (cost\$ or fee or charge))	20
<input type="checkbox"/>	L4	L3 and membership	33
<input type="checkbox"/>	L3	L2 and l1	94
<input type="checkbox"/>	L2	705/26,27.ccls.	1074
<input type="checkbox"/>	L1	=20001122	2372

END OF SEARCH HISTORY

TITLE: Method of monitoring credit card charges - comprises compact form carrying purchase amounts coverable by masking member

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Claims	KMC	Draw D
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Clear	Generate Collection	Print	Fwd Refs	Bkwd Refs	Generate OACS
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Terms	Documents
((purchas\$ or buy\$) with (member\$ or club)) and @pd<=20001122 and (member\$ with (cost\$ or fee or charge))	18

Display Format:

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L6: Entry 5 of 18

File: JPAB

Jun 2, 1999

PUB-NO: JP411149503A
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 11149503 A
TITLE: DISCOUNT SYSTEM USING NETWORK

PUBN-DATE: June 2, 1999

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME

COUNTRY

INOUE, YOSHIO

INT-CL (IPC): G06 F 17/60

ABSTRACT:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide an automatic function for a settlement discount in accordance with credit usage conditions by permitting a purchase providing trader to register a reduced charge and its available period concerning a member, subtract a registered discount within the available period from a payment amount at the time of credit settlement and demand the charge from the member.

SOLUTION: When a member B applies for commodity purchase to a member store C through a network, a purchase providing trader A registers a reduction and its available period concerning the member B in accordance with the credit transaction conditions. Then, a financial agency D receives advance payment data from the purchase providing trader A so as to on-line-transfer the commodity charge to the account of the member store C at the time of charge settlement. After that, the purchase providing trader A transmits charge demand data to the member B and transmits withdrawal data to the financial agency D so that the financial agency D executes the withdrawal of the charge from the account of the member B to that of the purchase providing trader A. Then, the trader A subtracts the discount which is registered in the member B from this monthly payment amount so as to adopt it as an amount claimed to the member B.

COPYRIGHT: (C)1999, JPO

First Hit



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L6: Entry 5 of 18

File: JPAB

Jun 2, 1999

PUB-NO: JP411149503A
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 11149503 A
TITLE: DISCOUNT SYSTEM USING NETWORK

PUBN-DATE: June 2, 1999

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME

COUNTRY

INOUE, YOSHIO

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME

COUNTRY

ACOM CO LTD

APPL-NO: JP09313570
APPL-DATE: November 14, 1997

INT-CL (IPC): G06 F 17/60

ABSTRACT:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide an automatic function for a settlement discount in accordance with credit usage conditions by permitting a purchase providing trader to register a reduced charge and its available period concerning a member, subtract a registered discount within the available period from a payment amount at the time of credit settlement and demand the charge from the member.

SOLUTION: When a member B applies for commodity purchase to a member store C through a network, a purchase providing trader A registers a reduction and its available period concerning the member B in accordance with the credit transaction conditions. Then, a financial agency D receives advance payment data from the purchase providing trader A so as to on-line-transfer the commodity charge to the account of the member store C at the time of charge settlement. After that, the purchase providing trader A transmits charge demand data to the member B and transmits withdrawal data to the financial agency D so that the financial agency D executes the withdrawal of the charge from the account of the member B to that of the purchase providing trader A. Then, the trader A subtracts the discount which is registered in the member B from this monthly payment amount so as to adopt it as an amount claimed to the member B.

COPYRIGHT: (C)1999, JPO

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Search Results - Record(s) 11 through 18 of 18 returned.

☐ 11. Document ID: JP 04340698 A

L6: Entry 11 of 18

File: JPAB

Nov 27, 1992

PUB-NO: JP404340698A

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 04340698 A

TITLE: SALES SUMMING-UP SYSTEM

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Claims	Keywords	Drawings
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☐ 12. Document ID: JP 03248297 A

L6: Entry 12 of 18

File: JPAB

Nov 6, 1991

PUB-NO: JP403248297A

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 03248297 A

TITLE: COMMODITY SALES DATA PROCESSOR

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Claims	Keywords	Drawings
------	-------	----------	-------	--------	----------------	------	-----------	--------	----------	----------

☐ 13. Document ID: JP 62034364 A

L6: Entry 13 of 18

File: JPAB

Feb 14, 1987

PUB-NO: JP362034364A

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 62034364 A

TITLE: MULTIDISK PLAYER

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Claims	Keywords	Drawings
------	-------	----------	-------	--------	----------------	------	-----------	--------	----------	----------

☐ 14. Document ID: JP 60233770 A

L6: Entry 14 of 18

File: JPAB

Nov 20, 1985

PUB-NO: JP360233770A

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 60233770 A

TITLE: GIFT CARD

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Claims	Keywords	Drawings
------	-------	----------	-------	--------	----------------	------	-----------	--------	----------	----------

☐ 15. Document ID: WO 9623689 A2, GB 2313812 B, AU 9646285 A, WO 9623689 A3, GB 2313812 A

L6: Entry 15 of 18

File: DWPI

Aug 8, 1996

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 1996-371264

DERWENT-WEEK: 199930

COPYRIGHT 2004 DERWENT INFORMATION LTD

TITLE: Handling appts. for shop customer's selected items to determine total cost - has chassis with base with mounted ground engaging wheels, frame members attached to base having several container locating apertures, each receiving and stably locating box or basket container for purchased goods

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Claims	FIGS	Draw. D.
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☐ 16. Document ID: US 5461465 A

L6: Entry 16 of 18

File: DWPI

Oct 24, 1995

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 1995-373393

DERWENT-WEEK: 199548

COPYRIGHT 2004 DERWENT INFORMATION LTD

TITLE: Developing appts. for developing latent image formed by static electrical charge pattern - has side seal members brought into forcible contact with end portions of blade which is developer controlling member

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Claims	FIGS	Draw. D.
------	-------	----------	-------	--------	----------------	------	-----------	--------	------	----------

☐ 17. Document ID: US 4775782 A, DE 3868921 C, EP 336941 A, EP 336941 B, JP 02501357 W, WO 8903101 A

L6: Entry 17 of 18

File: DWPI

Oct 4, 1988

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 1988-299906

DERWENT-WEEK: 198842

COPYRIGHT 2004 DERWENT INFORMATION LTD

TITLE: Checkout counter with remote keyboard writing pad and display - has remote display mounted on counter allow customer to observe merchandise item and price simultaneously

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Claims	FIGS	Draw. D.
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☐ 18. Document ID: US 4689018 A

L6: Entry 18 of 18

File: DWPI

Aug 25, 1987

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 1987-256865

DERWENT-WEEK: 198736

First Hit



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L6: Entry 10 of 18

File: JPAB

May 13, 1994

PUB-NO: JP406131386A

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 06131386 A

TITLE: TRANSMITTING METHOD FOR PAYMENT AND TRANSFER

PUBN-DATE: May 13, 1994

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME

COUNTRY

KATSURA, KENJIRO

FUJII, SUSUMU

UEHARA, DAI

INT-CL (IPC): G06F 15/30; G06F 15/30; G07D 9/00; G07D 9/00

ABSTRACT:

PURPOSE: To prepare data for a payment and transfer with the destination of transaction at an arbitrary point of time, to prevent a duplex transmission, and to attain an automatic fare adjustment by providing a step for selecting a transmission condition adaptive data, step for adding an unpaid sum, and step for adding a transmission end flag.

CONSTITUTION: A data processing terminal 1 is equipped with an employee master in which the bank branch office name and account number of each employee is registered. Then, payment data such as a salary to be paid to each employee and business trip expenses adjustment, and transfer data such as purchase price and each kind of membership fees are inputted each time of generation, and recorded in an input data file 4. At a payment date or transfer data, a person in charge of wireless transmission selects an unadjusted item from the input data file 4, designates the payment date or transfer date for the item, adds the untransferred sum, and prepares a transfer file for wireless transmission. After the end of transmission, a transmission end flag is set at wireless transmission management data in the transmitted file, and used for preventing the duplex transmission.

COPYRIGHT: (C)1994,JPO&Japio

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L6: Entry 11 of 18

File: JPAB

Nov 27, 1992

PUB-NO: JP404340698A
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 04340698 A
TITLE: SALES SUMMING-UP SYSTEM

PUBN-DATE: November 27, 1992

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME

COUNTRY

KITAGUCHI, YUUKI

US-CL-CURRENT: 235/375
INT-CL (IPC): G07G 1/12; G06F 15/21

ABSTRACT:

PURPOSE: To realize the sales summing-up system at low cost so as to execute prescribed discount service to the members regardless of the results of purchase.

CONSTITUTION: A discount master file is prepared to register merchandise data concerning merchandise to execute the discount service to the prescribed members among handling merchandise, and when a member's card is presented, the discount master file is retrieved as well when summing up the sales data of vended merchandise. Concerning the merchandise registering the merchandise data on it, the sales data are summed up by using the merchandise data. Since it is not necessary for the member's card to be a read only card and a card reader/writer can be replaced with a card reader, the sales summing-up system can be obtained at low cost so as to execute the prescribed discount service to the members regardless of the results of purchase.

COPYRIGHT: (C)1992, JPO&Japio

First Hit Fwd Refs



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L5: Entry 1 of 20

File: USPT

Dec 30, 2003

US-PAT-NO: 6671674

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6671674 B1

TITLE: Computer-based auction and sale system

DATE-ISSUED: December 30, 2003

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Anderson; Claude T.	Forest Lake	MN	55025	
Rieth; Michael G.	Woodbury	MN	55125	

APPL-NO: 09/ 526897 [PALM]

DATE FILED: March 16, 2000

INT-CL: [07] G06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/26; 705/37, 705/80

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/26; 705/37, 705/80

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/26, 705/37, 705/80

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Search Selected

Search ALL

Clear

	PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5715314</u>	February 1998	Payne et al.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5774873</u>	June 1998	Berent et al.	705/26
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5794207</u>	August 1998	Walker	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5890138</u>	March 1999	Godin et al.	705/26
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5895454</u>	April 1999	Harrington	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5905975</u>	May 1999	Ausubel	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5930767</u>	July 1999	Reber et al.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5960411</u>	September 1999	Hartman et al.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5966699</u>	October 1999	Zandi	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>6012045</u>	January 2000	Barzilai et al.	705/37
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>6021398</u>	February 2000	Ausubel	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN-PAT-NO	PUBN-DATE	COUNTRY	US-CL
0 987 644	March 2002	EP	
WO 01/22326	March 2001	WO	

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Goldstein, "Write an essay, win a home", Mar. 1994, Incentive vol. 168, Issue 3, 2 pages.*

Guasch et al., "Using auctions to allocate and price long-term credit", Jul. 1993, World Bank Research Observer, v8n2, 20 pages.*

Guasch, J. Luis, Glaessner, Thomas, Using auctions to allocate and price long-term credit; World bank Research Observer, v8n2 pp: 169-194, Jul. 1993.

ART-UNIT: 3621

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Trammell; James P.

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Sherr; Cristina O

ABSTRACT:

A computer-based method and system for executing an auction. The invention discloses a method for conducting an online auction in which a nonredeemable fee is collected from each auction participant to enter the bidder pool for a particular item. The collective nonredeemable fees from all bidders are then allocated to reduce the minimum bid required to purchase the item for the seller's asking price and to pay the transactional costs associated with the auction. Using this invention, a high value item can be purchased at very low cost to the high bidder, without the seller having to accept a reduced price for the item. Furthermore, this invention is amenable to a wide variety of auction systems because the computer-based auction and sale system can ensure the seller obtains their asking price for an item without requiring that the item be awarded to the high bidder.

8 Claims, 14 Drawing figures

First Hit Fwd Refs



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L5: Entry 1 of 20

File: USPT

Dec 30, 2003

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6671674 B1

TITLE: Computer-based auction and sale system

Application Filing Date (1):
20000316

Brief Summary Text (9):

One popular method used by consumers to reduce the purchase price for individual items is to join buying clubs. In this manner, each member pays a membership fee to the buying club. This fee helps defer the costs of products and, probably more importantly, assures the buying club that the members will actually purchase from the club. The buying club, representing many individuals, is in a favorable negotiating position as a buyer and can make use of volume discounts and obtain favorable prices from producers. The consumer in exchange for the membership fee has the right to obtain the products the buying club purchases at the discounted prices. In this manner, a buying club can obtain selling prices that are favorable to both the buyer and seller.

Brief Summary Text (10):

The present invention provides the advantages of the computer-based auction process by incorporating a membership fee requirement into each purchase. These membership fees, also referred to as nonredeemable shares, can be aggregated among all the bidders to be used to pay the seller for a portion or up to the entire selling price the seller would accept for the product. Therefore the eligible bidders, having purchased the nonredeemable share, will be able to bid on the item with a relatively low or no reserve since the seller will already have received all or a significant portion of the reserve price from the eligible bidders.

Brief Summary Text (13):

It is an additional object of the present invention to provide a computer-based method of purchasing or selling products and services that will utilize the aggregate membership fees or nonredeemable shares paid by all bidders to pay for all or a substantial portion of the auctioned product or service to the seller.

Brief Summary Text (14):

It is an additional object of the present invention to provide a computer-based method of purchasing or selling products and services that will utilize the aggregate membership fees or nonredeemable shares paid by all bidders to pay for all or a substantial portion of the transactional costs associated with operating the auction site for the use of the buyer and seller.

Brief Summary Text (15):

It is an additional object of the present invention to provide a computer-based method of purchasing or selling products and services that will utilize the aggregate membership fees paid by all bidders to allow the high bidder to obtain the product or service for a value substantially less than the amount received by the seller receives for the product or service.

Brief Summary Text (18):

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a computer-based auction

system wherein a nonredeemable share is purchased or a membership fee is collected from each bidder on a product, the aggregate membership fees are then credited towards paying for the product being auctioned.

Brief Summary Text (25):

The present invention is directed to a method of auctioning products on-line where participants use computer terminals to access a computer site and participate. The present invention provides advantages to existing computer-based auction processes by incorporating a nonredeemable share or membership fee requirement into each purchase. These fees can then be used to pay the seller up to the entire amount needed for the product as well as to cover transactional costs associated with conducting the auction. Since the seller will already have received all or a significant portion of the reserve price through the eligible bidders having purchased the nonredeemable share or paid the membership fee, the bidders will be able to bid on the item without a substantial reserve. This method is amenable to any computer-based auction whereby the bidders can be limited to a group of prequalified bidders. This invention can be used with the conventional consecutive open bid auction by using an open process and allowing the prequalified bidders to bid consecutively increasing amounts on the item. The invention can also be used on a sealed bid type auction where all bidders submit a bid amount which is undisclosed until a predetermined time at which time all bids are reviewed and the item awarded to the high bidder. The invention can also be used for a reverse auction whereby again the only bidders in the auction would be those that prequalified by purchasing the nonredeemable share or paying the membership fee for participating in the auction.

Brief Summary Text (28):

This method is particularly advantageous for buyers and sellers of high cost items such as businesses, real estate and expensive luxuries, since the funds generated from both the high bidder and the share price or membership fees collected to prequalify all the bidders for the item can be used to pay the sellers asking price. A bidder only risks a relatively small amount as a share price or membership fee for an opportunity to obtain an item that may otherwise either be unaffordable item or require financing.

Detailed Description Text (2):

The patent asserts a method and system for bidding and procurement using computers and the Internet. The methods allows users to purchase non-refundable shares to provide a bid on an item, similar to a per item membership fee. The non-refundable shares contribute to the total sales price of the item, in the context of various bidding strategies.

Current US Original Classification (1):

705/26

First Hit Fwd Refs



Generate Collection

Print

L5: Entry 2 of 20

File: USPT

Oct 7, 2003

US-PAT-NO: 6631356

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6631356 B1

TITLE: Demand aggregation through online buying groups

DATE-ISSUED: October 7, 2003

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Van Horn; Tom	Bellevue	WA		
Gustafsson; Niklas	Bellevue	WA		
Woodford; Dale	Redmond	WA		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
Vulcan Portals, Inc.	Seattle	WA			02

APPL-NO: 09/ 270219 [PALM]

DATE FILED: March 15, 1999

INT-CL: [07] G06 F 17/00

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/26; 705/27

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/26; 705/27

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/1, 705/14, 705/26, 705/27

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Search Selected

Search ALL

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<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4567359</u>	January 1986	Lockwood	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4789928</u>	December 1988	Fujisaki	364/401
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4949248</u>	August 1990	Caro	
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	<u>6078897</u>	June 2000	Rubin et al.	705/14

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explains that Accompany, Inc. received a Notice of Allowance from the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office.

Press Release from iCoop, Inc. obtained from the Internet at http://www.icoop.com/press_release2.htm on Apr. 10, 2000, which explains that iCoop, Inc. has filed two patent applications and has a provisional patent applications which were filed on Jan. 22, 1999.

Press Release from beMANY! obtained from the Internet at http://www.bemany.com/press02112000_be_many.html on Apr. 10, 2000, which explains that be MANY! has a "patent pending process".

Press Release from the company BazaarE.com obtained from the Internet at http://www.bazaare.com/pr.sub.13_03111999.cfm?CFID=62916&CFTOKEN=75630214 on Apr. 10, 2000, which explains that BazaarE.com has a "patent-pending platform".

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ART-UNIT: 2761

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Coggins; Wynn

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Thompson; Forest

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Fenwick & West LLP

ABSTRACT:

An online buying group (referred to herein as a "co-op") is formed for the specific purpose of purchasing a particular product at (102) by defining a start time, end time, critical mass, any minimum number of units offered, any maximum number of units offered, starting price and product cost curve. As data is gathered from buyers, by means of their making binding purchase offers, the co-op is modified at (108) using a pricing tool, so as to take into account for this market data in the definition of the price curve. A buyer chooses a product co-op of interest at (114). The buyer is presented with the following essential co-op information: current price, closing time, next price level (as defined by a price curve visibility window and the price curve) sufficient to entice the buyer to make an

offer. Once a buyer has made up his mind, the decision must be made at (116) to offer a purchase price which includes the current price, guaranteeing availability if critical mass has been achieved, or to make an offer at a lower price range that can be accepted only if the co-op price drops to that level, which may not occur. Given a decision to make an offer at such lower price, the buyer enters such maximum price at which he is willing to purchase the product at (118). Should the current price drop to the level at which the offer was made, the price contingency is removed from such offer and assuming critical mass is achieved, the offer is accepted at at the close of the co-op at (122), and processed accordingly. Inventory is allocated to fulfill the accepted offer at (126) following the closing of the co-op at (124).

33 Claims, 9 Drawing figures

First Hit Fwd Refs



Generate Collection

Print

L5: Entry 2 of 20

File: USPT

Oct 7, 2003

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6631356 B1

TITLE: Demand aggregation through online buying groups

Application Filing Date (1):

19990315

Brief Summary Text (7):

Other key aspects of the invention include a means to allow unprecedented access to certain market and pricing information derived from co-op member input during the life of each co-op. For example, all buyers wishing to join a co-op must submit a binding offer guaranteeing their willingness to purchase the featured item at or below some maximum price determined by each individual member. This collection of purchase offers provides valuable quantitative data regarding price sensitivity for the featured item. In addition, it permits real time yield management decisions that often will benefit both buyers and suppliers. Specifically, the invention provides data from which a supplier can be informed that if the product price is reduced by a specified amount, the co-op's pool of accepted offers-i.e., final sales-will increase by a specific quantity. The guaranteed increase in volume due to a reduced price would improve its overall yield. Under this scenario, both the co-op buyers and the product supplier benefit from the indicated price reduction.

Brief Summary Text (13):

Historically, individual buyers have sought to achieve collective buying power, among other things, by joining a traditional, true "co-op"--i.e., an organization that is actually owned by and operated for the benefit of those using its services. Such organizations usually are comprised of individual members with common business, occupational, or recreational interests. Members of these tine co-ops pay annual membership fees (typically sufficient to cover the operating costs of the co-op entity) for the privileges of membership, which often include access to information, products and services related to the co-op's defined purpose.

Brief Summary Text (54):

In accordance with a first aspect of the invention, a system for an on-line buying co-op includes an e-commerce server data processing system. The e-commerce server data processing system has e-commerce server software executable on the e-commerce server data processing system. The e-commerce server software is configured to define a buying co-op for a product by specifying the product for the co-op, a time interval within which members can join the co-op, the point at which critical mass is reached, any minimum or maximum quantity of the product available through the co-op, and one or more price curves for the featured product. The e-commerce server software is further configured to accept inputs from buyers to take orders for the product. A buyer client data processing system is coupled to the e-commerce server data processing system. The buyer client data processing system includes first client software executable on the buyer client data processing system. The first client software is configured to receive data from said e-commerce data processing system describing the buying co-op for the product, to display the data describing the buyer's co-op for the product on the buyer client data processing system, to receive buyer order inputs for the product and to transmit buyer order inputs for the product to the e-commerce server data processing system.

Brief Summary Text (65):

Regardless of the maximum price specified within each purchase offer, all members of the co-op get the benefit of the lowest final price.

Current US Original Classification (1):

705/26

Current US Cross Reference Classification (1):

705/27

First Hit Fwd Refs



Generate Collection

Print

L5: Entry 6 of 20

File: USPT

Jul 10, 2001

US-PAT-NO: 6260024

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6260024 B1

TITLE: Method and apparatus for facilitating buyer-driven purchase orders on a commercial network system

DATE-ISSUED: July 10, 2001

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Shkedy; Gary	New York	NY	10028	

APPL-NO: 09/ 203843 [PALM]

DATE FILED: December 2, 1998

INT-CL: [07] G06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/37; 705/10, 705/28, 705/23, 705/26

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/37; 705/10, 705/23, 705/26, 705/28

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/28, 705/10, 705/35, 705/26, 705/23, 705/25, 705/14, 705/44, 705/37, 380/25, 380/23

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Search Selected

Search ALL

Clear

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<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5794207</u>	August 1998	Walker et al.	705/23
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5794219</u>	August 1998	Brown	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5835896</u>	November 1998	Fisher et al.	

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Search Report of International Appln. No. PCT/US99/28507.

ART-UNIT: 212

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Trammell; James P.

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Tesfamariam; Mussie K.

ABSTRACT:

Systems and methods are described for providing a global bilateral buyer-driven system for creating binding contracts by incorporating various methods of communication, commerce and security for the buyers and the sellers. Individual buyers purchase requirements are aggregated into a single collective purchase requirement and sellers are located willing to bid on the collective purchase requirement. A central controller facilitates the buyer/seller transaction by fielding binding offers from buyers, aggregating those offers into group (i.e. pooled) offers and communicating those group offers globally in a format which can be efficiently accessed and analyzed by potential sellers. This system can also effectuate performance of resulting contracts, resolve disputes arising from those contracts, and maintain billing, collection, authentication, and anonymity. The methods disclosed are applicable to any commerce situation involving buyers and sellers.

37 Claims, 17 Drawing figures

First Hit Fwd Refs



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Print

L5: Entry 6 of 20

File: USPT

Jul 10, 2001

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6260024 B1

TITLE: Method and apparatus for facilitating buyer-driven purchase orders on a commercial network system

Application Filing Date (1):

19981202

Brief Summary Text (13):

A buyers club concept, e.g. Costco, where buyers pay a membership fee to join a club to pool the buying power of members, supposedly allows the buyer to achieve some cost saving. However, the club (the intermediary) still acts as a seller, in that it selects the goods to purchase and offers those goods to members at a discounted price. In reality this is still a seller protocol.

Detailed Description Text (112):

As mentioned previously, the present invention provides for the anonymity of both buyers and sellers. Such anonymity is accomplished by eliminating all references to names of the individuals for all transactions. The process of creating FPO 110 from FPO 100 ensures that the seller need not be notified of the buyers' identities. Also buyers are prevented from seeing other buyers FPO 100 and so their identities are kept from other members of the pool. In this embodiment, the payment protocol of buyers paying the intermediary and then the intermediary paying the seller ensure complete anonymity for both buyer and seller. This is desirable if the buyer were an individual who did not want to be inundated with direct mail solicitations usually generated from the purchase of certain item.

Detailed Description Text (123):

All FPO 100 do not require the specification of a ceiling price. In this embodiment buyer will be bound to the pool with the use of legal language and commission fee and/or a cancellation fees. Here the buyer transfers all authority to the intermediary to determine the optimal bid for the pool. The buyer unconditionally accepts the final bid price and may be forced to pay a cancellation fee if he does not accept the goods. This fee can either be used to reimburse the seller for a smaller pool or used to make up the shortfall between the old bid price and the new price for fewer members of the pool. An example, would be a group of 20 people who contracted the intermediary to find them the best 5-day vacation package to Disneyland. If one person canceled, after everyone had received confirmation of the purchase, they would have to pay a cancellation fee, specified in FPO 100.

Current US Cross Reference Classification (3):

705/26

First Hit Fwd Refs



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L5: Entry 5 of 20

File: USPT

Feb 26, 2002

US-PAT-NO: 6351738

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6351738 B1

TITLE: Collective business system

DATE-ISSUED: February 26, 2002

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Clark; Douglas W.	Haddonfield	NJ	08033	

APPL-NO: 09/ 317560 [PALM]

DATE FILED: May 24, 1999

INT-CL: [07] G06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/37; 705/9, 705/26, 705/27

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/37; 705/26, 705/27, 705/9

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/9, 705/26, 705/27, 705/37

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Search Selected

Search ALL

Clear

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<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5717989</u>	February 1998	Tozzoli et al.	705/37
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5963915</u>	October 1999	Kirsch	705/26
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5970475</u>	October 1999	Barnes et al.	705/27
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5974395</u>	October 1999	Bellini et al.	705/9

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FOREIGN-PAT-NO	PUBN-DATE	COUNTRY	US-CL
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William J. Angelo; Giving Entrepreneurial Engineers A Way to Be Their Own Boss ENR;
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By Sarah Lubman; Hotel Franchiser's Real-Estate Foray Puzzles Industry--Silverman's
Intention to Buy Century 21 Produces Many Reservation; Wall Street Journal; New
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ART-UNIT: 2164

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Millin; Vincent

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Patel; Jagdish N

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Klehr, Harrison, Branzburg & Ellers LLP Letchford; John F.

ABSTRACT:

A collective business system including participants engaged in a common field of business endeavor, a plurality of suppliers of business support mechanisms of interest to the participants and a for-profit hub business entity for managing transactions between the suppliers, the participants and their customers. Under the system, the independently owned and operated participants are assigned geographically protected business locations, as well as one or more of volume discounts of goods and services, national marketing capacity, discount capital financing for purchase of costly technology and machinery, access to information technology, logistics support or other business support mechanisms. The assets of the hub business entity are substantially liquid asset based and the hub business entity enables, controls and derives income from transactions between the suppliers and participants. The system enables the participants to compete effectively with much larger corporate or similar entities or franchises in the same or similar industry or profession without sacrificing their independence.

26 Claims, 6 Drawing figures

to the transactions between its members 116 and suppliers 114. Net income received by the cooperative is returned to members 116 in the form of dividends or the like. Cooperative 112 also typically provides capital financing to members 116 to facilitate their individual purchases of costly technology and machinery.

Detailed Description Text (8):

In a purchasing cooperative system, the cooperative 112 is tangible asset intensive in that it typically may hold a considerable inventory of goods for purchase by its membership. Cooperative 112 must therefore incur expense, e.g., rent, utilities, equipment, and personnel, for storing and handling the goods. In contrast with a trade association wherein individual members purchase directly from suppliers, the cooperative 112 purchases directly from suppliers 114 with considerable volume leverage which results substantial savings being ultimately passed on to members 116. In addition to maintenance costs, another disadvantage of holding a large amount of tangible assets in the form of inventory is that members 116 are at risk of loss of the invested capital if cooperative 112 experiences financial hardship.

Detailed Description Text (16):

HBE 412 is substantially free of tangible assets and has minimal capital requirements, most of which are dedicated to start-up costs. It holds no inventory and its operations are preferably managed and accomplished by a minimum staff of individuals disciplined in national marketing and sales, group purchasing, creative finance, technology and, as the needs of HBES 410 may dictate, logistics and/or other areas of business support expertise. The assets of HBE 412 consist primarily of liquid assets such as cash and receivables derived from annual participants' membership fees, markups or other commissions it earns on transactions between the suppliers of business support mechanisms 416 and participants 414, 414' and transactions between HBE 412 and customers 418 of the HBES 410. Since HBE 412 holds no inventory, it incurs none of the expense required for sustaining inventory or the capital-loss risk to the stockholder participants 414' in the event a particular HBES 410 should become unsuccessful. Other than a certain quantity of computer hardware and software upon which to implement its operations, HBE 412 possesses no other tangible assets such as land, buildings, equipment or vehicles. So configured, HBE 412 essentially functions to monitor and control the income and business support mechanisms streams between the participant's 414, 414', customers 418 and the suppliers of business support mechanisms 416.

Current US Cross Reference Classification (1):

705/26

Current US Cross Reference Classification (2):

705/27

First Hit Fwd Refs



Generate Collection

Print

L5: Entry 5 of 20

File: USPT

Feb 26, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6351738 B1
TITLE: Collective business system

Application Filing Date (1):
19990524

Brief Summary Text (9):

To sustain its operations, a trade association generally receives an initiation fee and/or a yearly membership fee (collectively "dues") from its members, and it may collect rebates or commissions from the purchasing plan suppliers.

Brief Summary Text (11):

A cooperative is a non-profit organization somewhat similar to a trade association. A significant difference between the cooperative and the trade association, however, is that with a trade association, the members have a non-equity position in the association, whereas in the typical cooperative the members will have an equity interest as all members of the cooperative own a portion of the cooperative. Generally, a cooperative only addresses one facet of business operation needs of interest to its members, e.g., purchasing of goods and services at advantageous prices. A purchasing cooperative is at risk in that it holds considerable assets in the form of inventory and provides credit to the businesses in the cooperative. In addition, the members of the cooperative risk loss of invested capital if the cooperative proves unsuccessful.

Brief Summary Text (12):

The cooperative utilizes its volume leverage with suppliers in purchasing products and services for less than the individual member company could obtain outside of the cooperative. The cooperative marks up the purchased products or services in order to cover operating expenses. Any net income achieved by the cooperative is then returned to the cooperative members in the form of a redistribution of profits or dividends. Like a trade association, cooperatives cannot exclude members on the basis of geography or create exclusive territories.

Brief Summary Text (18):

The trade organization imposes relatively low membership dues on its members. However, because initiation fees and annual membership fees are nominal, the trade organization lacks the ability to engage in offering its members national marketing capability, access to expensive technologies and cost-effective purchasing programs for major purchases due to a lack of capital. Furthermore, being non-profit, trade associations do not have the management mentality necessary to sustain major projects such as national sales and marketing. Today, they are of little help in enabling their small, independent members to compete with large national competitors.

Brief Summary Text (19):

Cooperatives, like trade associations, are hampered because they cannot carve out or assign geographic territories to their individual members and are limited to executing a single business function, e.g., purchasing of products and services or marketing.

Brief Summary Text (20):

An advantage exists, therefore, for a collective business system, which can enable independent business entities in a common field of endeavor to compete effectively with large nationally and internationally based competitors. The collective business system should be structured to include a substantially liquid asset based, for-profit business entity which can assign geographic territories of operation to its participants, as well as provide its participants with purchasing power leverage, discount capital financing, global marketing capabilities, access to high cost technology and a broad range of goods and services. The system should not impose burdensome dues or other fees on its members. And, for participants who are also shareholders in the for-profit business entity, the system offers additional financial rewards in terms of equity growth and dividend distributions.

Detailed Description Text (3):

For payment of dues, typically in the form of an annual membership fee possibly coupled with an initiation fee, the members 16, through trade association 12, are introduced to suppliers 14 of goods and services which are of particular interest to the members. To become a selected vendor having access to members 16, a supplier may provide the trade association with rebates, commissions or other incentives, which may be passed along to the members. The trade association 12 supports its operations by collection of dues from members 12 and any cash or equivalent funding it may receive from suppliers 14. In addition to its primary function of bringing together suppliers 14 with members 16, trade association 12 frequently provides its members with support and advertising programs, e.g., educational programs, preprinted marketing materials and group meetings to discuss common problems among the membership.

Detailed Description Text (4):

Once introduced via trade association 12, members 16 purchase selected goods and/or services from, and make payments directly to, suppliers 14. Trade associations are forbidden under a long established body of antitrust law from assigning unique geographic territories of operation for its individual members 16. Thus, members 16 are free to compete with one another in overlapping and even identical geographic areas such that the activities of one member 16 may detract from another nearby member.

Detailed Description Text (5):

Trade associations are substantially asset-free, i.e., they hold no real property or inventory and little, if any, other tangible property. Their limited income prohibits trade associations from pledging credit, which might otherwise enable members to purchase expensive technology or machinery at attractive financing rates. Each member 16 must therefore purchase from a supplier based upon the member's own creditworthiness rather than that of the trade association 12. The members 16 do not have any mechanism to pool their credit resources to leverage discount financing from suppliers 14 of expensive capital items, e.g., computer systems, vehicles and machinery, that are vital to the vitality and growth of the businesses of the individual members.

Detailed Description Text (7):

Unlike a trade association, the members 116 of cooperative 112 are all shareholders in the cooperative. Each member 116 thus has an equity interest in, i.e., owns a portion of, cooperative 112. Cooperatives generally service only a single aspect or facet of business activity that may be of interest to the members. For instance, cooperative 112 may provide its members 116 with either discounted goods/services or marketing/advertising support from suppliers 114. Unlike a trade association system, payment for transactions occurring between suppliers 114 and members 116 in a cooperative system passes first from the individual member 116 to cooperative 112 and then from the cooperative 112 to the individual supplier 114 (rather than directly between the member and supplier in the trade association system discussed above). The cooperative 112 sustains itself primarily from the markups it attaches

Hit List

Clear	Generate Collection	Print	Fwd Refs	Bkwd Refs
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Search Results - Record(s) 11 through 18 of 18 returned.

☐ 11. Document ID: JP 04340698 A

L6: Entry 11 of 18

File: JPAB

Nov 27, 1992

PUB-NO: JP404340698A

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 04340698 A

TITLE: SALES SUMMING-UP SYSTEM

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Claims	KWIC	Draw D
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☐ 12. Document ID: JP 03248297 A

L6: Entry 12 of 18

File: JPAB

Nov 6, 1991

PUB-NO: JP403248297A

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 03248297 A

TITLE: COMMODITY SALES DATA PROCESSOR

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Claims	KWIC	Draw D
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☐ 13. Document ID: JP 62034364 A

L6: Entry 13 of 18

File: JPAB

Feb 14, 1987

PUB-NO: JP362034364A

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 62034364 A

TITLE: MULTIDISK PLAYER

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Claims	KWIC	Draw D
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☐ 14. Document ID: JP 60233770 A

L6: Entry 14 of 18

File: JPAB

Nov 20, 1985

PUB-NO: JP360233770A

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 60233770 A

TITLE: GIFT CARD

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Claims	KWIC	Draw D
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☐ 15. Document ID: WO 9623689 A2, GB 2313812 B, AU 9646285 A, WO 9623689 A3, GB 2313812 A

L6: Entry 15 of 18

File: DWPI

Aug 8, 1996

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 1996-371264

DERWENT-WEEK: 199930

COPYRIGHT 2004 DERWENT INFORMATION LTD

TITLE: Handling appts. for shop customer's selected items to determine total cost - has chassis with base with mounted ground engaging wheels, frame members attached to base having several container locating apertures, each receiving and stably locating box or basket container for purchased goods

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference			Claims	KWIC	Draw. De
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☐ 16. Document ID: US 5461465 A

L6: Entry 16 of 18

File: DWPI

Oct 24, 1995

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 1995-373393

DERWENT-WEEK: 199548

COPYRIGHT 2004 DERWENT INFORMATION LTD

TITLE: Developing appts for developing latent image formed by static electrical charge pattern - has side seal members bought into forcible contact with end portions of blade which is developer controlling member

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference			Claims	KWIC	Draw. De
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☐ 17. Document ID: US 4775782 A, DE 3868921 G, EP 336941 A, EP 336941 B, JP 02501357 W, WO 8903101 A

L6: Entry 17 of 18

File: DWPI

Oct 4, 1988

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 1988-299906

DERWENT-WEEK: 198842

COPYRIGHT 2004 DERWENT INFORMATION LTD

TITLE: Checkout counter with remote keyboard writing pad and display - has remote display mounted on counter allow customer to observe merchandise item and price simultaneously

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference			Claims	KWIC	Draw. De
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☐ 18. Document ID: US 4689018 A

L6: Entry 18 of 18

File: DWPI

Aug 25, 1987

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 1987-256865

DERWENT-WEEK: 198736

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L5: Entry 1 of 20

File: USPT

Dec 30, 2003

US-PAT-NO: 6671674

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6671674 B1

TITLE: Computer-based auction and sale system

DATE-ISSUED: December 30, 2003

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Anderson; Claude T.	Forest Lake	MN	55025	
Rieth; Michael G.	Woodbury	MN	55125	

APPL-NO: 09/ 526897 [PALM]

DATE FILED: March 16, 2000

INT-CL: [07] G06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/26; 705/37, 705/80

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/26; 705/37, 705/80

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/26, 705/37, 705/80

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

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Search Selected

Search ALL

Clear

	PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5715314</u>	February 1998	Payne et al.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5774873</u>	June 1998	Berent et al.	705/26
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5794207</u>	August 1998	Walker	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5890138</u>	March 1999	Godin et al.	705/26
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5895454</u>	April 1999	Harrington	
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>6021398</u>	February 2000	Ausubel	

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WO 01/22326	March 2001	WO	

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Guasch et al., "Using auctions to allocate and price long-term credit", Jul. 1993, World Bank Research Observer, v8n2, 20 pages.*

Guasch, J. Luis, Glaessner, Thomas, Using auctions to allocate and price long-term credit; World bank Research Observer, v8n2 pp: 169-194, Jul. 1993.

ART-UNIT: 3621

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Trammell; James P.

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Sherr; Cristina O

ABSTRACT:

A computer-based method and system for executing an auction. The invention discloses a method for conducting an online auction in which a nonredeemable fee is collected from each auction participant to enter the bidder pool for a particular item. The collective nonredeemable fees from all bidders are then allocated to reduce the minimum bid required to purchase the item for the seller's asking price and to pay the transactional costs associated with the auction. Using this invention, a high value item can be purchased at very low cost to the high bidder, without the seller having to accept a reduced price for the item. Furthermore, this invention is amenable to a wide variety of auction systems because the computer-based auction and sale system can ensure the seller obtains their asking price for an item without requiring that the item be awarded to the high bidder.

8 Claims, 14 Drawing figures



L5: Entry 1 of 20

File: USPT

Dec 30, 2003

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6671674 B1
TITLE: Computer-based auction and sale system

Application Filing Date (1):
20000316

Brief Summary Text (9):

One popular method used by consumers to reduce the purchase price for individual items is to join buying clubs. In this manner, each member pays a membership fee to the buying club. This fee helps defer the costs of products and, probably more importantly, assures the buying club that the members will actually purchase from the club. The buying club, representing many individuals, is in a favorable negotiating position as a buyer and can make use of volume discounts and obtain favorable prices from producers. The consumer in exchange for the membership fee has the right to obtain the products the buying club purchases at the discounted prices. In this manner, a buying club can obtain selling prices that are favorable to both the buyer and seller.

Brief Summary Text (10):

The present invention provides the advantages of the computer-based auction process by incorporating a membership fee requirement into each purchase. These membership fees, also referred to as nonredeemable shares, can be aggregated among all the bidders to be used to pay the seller for a portion or up to the entire selling price the seller would accept for the product. Therefore the eligible bidders, having purchased the nonredeemable share, will be able to bid on the item with a relatively low or no reserve since the seller will already have received all or a significant portion of the reserve price from the eligible bidders.

Brief Summary Text (13):

It is an additional object of the present invention to provide a computer-based method of purchasing or selling products and services that will utilize the aggregate membership fees or nonredeemable shares paid by all bidders to pay for all or a substantial portion of the auctioned product or service to the seller.

Brief Summary Text (14):

It is an additional object of the present invention to provide a computer-based method of purchasing or selling products and services that will utilize the aggregate membership fees or nonredeemable shares paid by all bidders to pay for all or a substantial portion of the transactional costs associated with operating the auction site for the use of the buyer and seller.

Brief Summary Text (15):

It is an additional object of the present invention to provide a computer-based method of purchasing or selling products and services that will utilize the aggregate membership fees paid by all bidders to allow the high bidder to obtain the product or service for a value substantially less than the amount received by the seller receives for the product or service.

Brief Summary Text (18):

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a computer-based auction

system wherein a nonredeemable share is purchased or a membership fee is collected from each bidder on a product, the aggregate membership fees are then credited towards paying for the product being auctioned.

Brief Summary Text (25):

The present invention is directed to a method of auctioning products on-line where participants use computer terminals to access a computer site and participate. The present invention provides advantages to existing computer-based auction processes by incorporating a nonredeemable share or membership fee requirement into each purchase. These fees can then be used to pay the seller up to the entire amount needed for the product as well as to cover transactional costs associated with conducting the auction. Since the seller will already have received all or a significant portion of the reserve price through the eligible bidders having purchased the nonredeemable share or paid the membership fee, the bidders will be able to bid on the item without a substantial reserve. This method is amenable to any computer-based auction whereby the bidders can be limited to a group of prequalified bidders. This invention can be used with the conventional consecutive open bid auction by using an open process and allowing the prequalified bidders to bid consecutively increasing amounts on the item. The invention can also be used on a sealed bid type auction where all bidders submit a bid amount which is undisclosed until a predetermined time at which time all bids are reviewed and the item awarded to the high bidder. The invention can also be used for a reverse auction whereby again the only bidders in the auction would be those that prequalified by purchasing the nonredeemable share or paying the membership fee for participating in the auction.

Brief Summary Text (28):

This method is particularly advantageous for buyers and sellers of high cost items such as businesses, real estate and expensive luxuries, since the funds generated from both the high bidder and the share price or membership fees collected to prequalify all the bidders for the item can be used to pay the sellers asking price. A bidder only risks a relatively small amount as a share price or membership fee for an opportunity to obtain an item that may otherwise either be unaffordable item or require financing.

Detailed Description Text (2):

The patent asserts a method and system for bidding and procurement using computers and the Internet. The methods allows users to purchase non-refundable shares to provide a bid on an item, similar to a per item membership fee. The non-refundable shares contribute to the total sales price of the item, in the context of various bidding strategies.

Current US Original Classification (1):

705/26

First Hit Fwd Refs



Generate Collection

Print

L5: Entry 2 of 20

File: USPT

Oct 7, 2003

US-PAT-NO: 6631356

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6631356 B1

TITLE: Demand aggregation through online buying groups

DATE-ISSUED: October 7, 2003

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Van Horn; Tom	Bellevue	WA		
Gustafsson; Niklas	Bellevue	WA		
Woodford; Dale	Redmond	WA		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
Vulcan Portals, Inc.	Seattle	WA			02

APPL-NO: 09/ 270219 [PALM]

DATE FILED: March 15, 1999

INT-CL: [07] G06 F 17/00

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/26; 705/27

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/26; 705/27

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/1, 705/14, 705/26, 705/27

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Search Selected

Search ALL

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	PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4567359</u>	January 1986	Lockwood	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4789928</u>	December 1988	Fujisaki	364/401
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4949248</u>	August 1990	Caro	
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explains that Accompany, Inc. received a Notice of Allowance from the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office.

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ART-UNIT: 2761

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Coggins; Wynn

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Thompson; Forest

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Fenwick & West LLP

ABSTRACT:

An online buying group (referred to herein as a "co-op") is formed for the specific purpose of purchasing a particular product at (102) by defining a start time, end time, critical mass, any minimum number of units offered, any maximum number of units offered, starting price and product cost curve. As data is gathered from buyers, by means of their making binding purchase offers, the co-op is modified at (108) using a pricing tool, so as to take into account for this market data in the definition of the price curve. A buyer chooses a product co-op of interest at (114). The buyer is presented with the following essential co-op information: current price, closing time, next price level (as defined by a price curve visibility window and the price curve) sufficient to entice the buyer to make an

offer. Once a buyer has made up his mind, the decision must be made at (116) to offer a purchase price which includes the current price, guaranteeing availability if critical mass has been achieved, or to make an offer at a lower price range that can be accepted only if the co-op price drops to that level, which may not occur. Given a decision to make an offer at such lower price, the buyer enters such maximum price at which he is willing to purchase the product at (118). Should the current price drop to the level at which the offer was made, the price contingency is removed from such offer and assuming critical mass is achieved, the offer is accepted at at the close of the co-op at (122), and processed accordingly. Inventory is allocated to fulfill the accepted offer at (126) following the closing of the co-op at (124).

33 Claims, 9 Drawing figures



L5: Entry 2 of 20

File: USPT

Oct 7, 2003

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6631356 B1

TITLE: Demand aggregation through online buying groups

Application Filing Date (1):

19990315

Brief Summary Text (7):

Other key aspects of the invention include a means to allow unprecedented access to certain market and pricing information derived from co-op member input during the life of each co-op. For example, all buyers wishing to join a co-op must submit a binding offer guaranteeing their willingness to purchase the featured item at or below some maximum price determined by each individual member. This collection of purchase offers provides valuable quantitative data regarding price sensitivity for the featured item. In addition, it permits real time yield management decisions that often will benefit both buyers and suppliers. Specifically, the invention provides data from which a supplier can be informed that if the product price is reduced by a specified amount, the co-op's pool of accepted offers-i.e., final sales-will increase by a specific quantity. The guaranteed increase in volume due to a reduced price would improve its overall yield. Under this scenario, both the co-op buyers and the product supplier benefit from the indicated price reduction.

Brief Summary Text (13):

Historically, individual buyers have sought to achieve collective buying power, among other things, by joining a traditional, true "co-op"--i.e., an organization that is actually owned by and operated for the benefit of those using its services. Such organizations usually are comprised of individual members with common business, occupational. or recreational interests. Members of these fine co-ops pay annual membership fees (typically sufficient to cover the operating costs of the co-op entity) for the privileges of membership, which often include access to information, products and services related to the co-op's defined purpose.

Brief Summary Text (54):

In accordance with a first aspect of the invention, a system for an on-line buying co-op includes an e-commerce server data processing system. The e-commerce server data processing system has e-commerce server software executable on the e-commerce server data processing system. The e-commerce server software is configured to define a buying co-op for a product by specifying the product for the co-op, a time interval within which members can join the co-op, the point at which critical mass is reached, any minimum or maximum quantity of the product available through the co-op, and one or more price curves for the featured product. The e-commerce server software is further configured to accept inputs from buyers to take orders for the product. A buyer client data processing system is coupled to the e-commerce server data processing system. The buyer client data processing system includes first client software executable on the buyer client data processing system. The first client software is configured to receive data from said e-commerce data processing system describing the buying co-op for the product, to display the data describing the buyer's co-op for the product on the buyer client data processing system, to receive buyer order inputs for the product and to transmit buyer order inputs for the product to the e-commerce server data processing system.

Brief Summary Text (65):

Regardless of the maximum price specified within each purchase offer, all members of the co-op get the benefit of the lowest final price.

Current US Original Classification (1):

705/26

Current US Cross Reference Classification (1):

705/27

First Hit Fwd Refs



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L5: Entry 6 of 20

File: USPT

Jul 10, 2001

US-PAT-NO: 6260024

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6260024 B1

TITLE: Method and apparatus for facilitating buyer-driven purchase orders on a commercial network system

DATE-ISSUED: July 10, 2001

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Shkedy; Gary	New York	NY	10028	

APPL-NO: 09/ 203843 [PALM]

DATE FILED: December 2, 1998

INT-CL: [07] G06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/37; 705/10, 705/28, 705/23, 705/26

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/37; 705/10, 705/23, 705/26, 705/28

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/28, 705/10, 705/35, 705/26, 705/23, 705/25, 705/14, 705/44, 705/37, 380/25, 380/23

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Search Selected

Search ALL

Clear

	PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4903201</u>	February 1990	Wagner	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5191613</u>	March 1993	Graziano et al.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5794207</u>	August 1998	Walker et al.	705/23
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5794219</u>	August 1998	Brown	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5835896</u>	November 1998	Fisher et al.	

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FOREIGN-PAT-NO	PUBN-DATE	COUNTRY	US-CL
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Search Report of International Appln. No. PCT/US99/28507.

ART-UNIT: 212

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Trammell; James P.

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Tesfamariam; Mussie K.

ABSTRACT:

Systems and methods are described for providing a global bilateral buyer-driven system for creating binding contracts by incorporating various methods of communication, commerce and security for the buyers and the sellers. Individual buyers purchase requirements are aggregated into a single collective purchase requirement and sellers are located willing to bid on the collective purchase requirement. A central controller facilitates the buyer/seller transaction by fielding binding offers from buyers, aggregating those offers into group (i.e. pooled) offers and communicating those group offers globally in a format which can be efficiently accessed and analyzed by potential sellers. This system can also effectuate performance of resulting contracts, resolve disputes arising from those contracts, and maintain billing, collection, authentication, and anonymity. The methods disclosed are applicable to any commerce situation involving buyers and sellers.

37 Claims, 17 Drawing figures

First Hit Fwd Refs



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L5: Entry 6 of 20

File: USPT

Jul 10, 2001

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6260024 B1

TITLE: Method and apparatus for facilitating buyer-driven purchase orders on a commercial network system

Application Filing Date (1):

19981202

Brief Summary Text (13):

A buyers club concept, e.g. Costco, where buyers pay a membership fee to join a club to pool the buying power of members, supposedly allows the buyer to achieve some cost saving. However, the club (the intermediary) still acts as a seller, in that it selects the goods to purchase and offers those goods to members at a discounted price. In reality this is still a seller protocol.

Detailed Description Text (112):

As mentioned previously, the present invention provides for the anonymity of both buyers and sellers. Such anonymity is accomplished by eliminating all references to names of the individuals for all transactions. The process of creating FPO 110 from FPO 100 ensures that the seller need not be notified of the buyers' identities. Also buyers are prevented from seeing other buyers FPO 100 and so their identities are kept from other members of the pool. In this embodiment, the payment protocol of buyers paying the intermediary and then the intermediary paying the seller ensure complete anonymity for both buyer and seller. This is desirable if the buyer were an individual who did not want to be inundated with direct mail solicitations usually generated from the purchase of certain item.

Detailed Description Text (123):

All FPO 100 do not require the specification of a ceiling price. In this embodiment buyer will be bound to the pool with the use of legal language and commission fee and/or a cancellation fees. Here the buyer transfers all authority to the intermediary to determine the optimal bid for the pool. The buyer unconditionally accepts the final bid price and may be forced to pay a cancellation fee if he does not accept the goods. This fee can either be used to reimburse the seller for a smaller pool or used to make up the shortfall between the old bid price and the new price for fewer members of the pool. An example, would be a group of 20 people who contracted the intermediary to find them the best 5-day vacation package to Disneyland. If one person canceled, after everyone had received confirmation of the purchase, they would have to pay a cancellation fee, specified in FPO 100.

Current US Cross Reference Classification (3):

705/26

First Hit Fwd Refs



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L5: Entry 5 of 20

File: USPT

Feb 26, 2002

US-PAT-NO: 6351738

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6351738 B1

TITLE: Collective business system

DATE-ISSUED: February 26, 2002

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Clark; Douglas W.	Haddonfield	NJ	08033	

APPL-NO: 09/ 317560 [PALM]

DATE FILED: May 24, 1999

INT-CL: [07] G06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/37; 705/9, 705/26, 705/27

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/37; 705/26, 705/27, 705/9

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/9, 705/26, 705/27, 705/37

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Search Selected

Search ALL

Clear

	PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4799156</u>	January 1989	Shavit et al.	705/26
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5717989</u>	February 1998	Tozzoli et al.	705/37
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5963915</u>	October 1999	Kirsch	705/26
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5970475</u>	October 1999	Barnes et al.	705/27
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5974395</u>	October 1999	Bellini et al.	705/9

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FOREIGN-PAT-NO	PUBN-DATE	COUNTRY	US-CL
WO 97/24691	July 1997	WO	

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Intention to Buy Century 21 Produces Many Reservation; Wall Street Journal; New
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ART-UNIT: 2164

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Millin; Vincent

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Patel; Jagdish N

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Klehr, Harrison, Branzburg & Ellers LLP Letchford; John F.

ABSTRACT:

A collective business system including participants engaged in a common field of business endeavor, a plurality of suppliers of business support mechanisms of interest to the participants and a for-profit hub business entity for managing transactions between the suppliers, the participants and their customers. Under the system, the independently owned and operated participants are assigned geographically protected business locations, as well as one or more of volume discounts of goods and services, national marketing capacity, discount capital financing for purchase of costly technology and machinery, access to information technology, logistics support or other business support mechanisms. The assets of the hub business entity are substantially liquid asset based and the hub business entity enables, controls and derives income from transactions between the suppliers and participants. The system enables the participants to compete effectively with much larger corporate or similar entities or franchises in the same or similar industry or profession without sacrificing their independence.

26 Claims, 6 Drawing figures

to the transactions between its members 116 and suppliers 114. Net income received by the cooperative is returned to members 116 in the form of dividends or the like. Cooperative 112 also typically provides capital financing to members 116 to facilitate their individual purchases of costly technology and machinery.

Detailed Description Text (8):

In a purchasing cooperative system, the cooperative 112 is tangible asset intensive in that it typically may hold a considerable inventory of goods for purchase by its membership. Cooperative 112 must therefore incur expense, e.g., rent, utilities, equipment, and personnel, for storing and handling the goods. In contrast with a trade association wherein individual members purchase directly from suppliers, the cooperative 112 purchases directly from suppliers 114 with considerable volume leverage which results substantial savings being ultimately passed on to members 116. In addition to maintenance costs, another disadvantage of holding a large amount of tangible assets in the form of inventory is that members 116 are at risk of loss of the invested capital if cooperative 112 experiences financial hardship.

Detailed Description Text (16):

HBE 412 is substantially free of tangible assets and has minimal capital requirements, most of which are dedicated to start-up costs. It holds no inventory and its operations are preferably managed and accomplished by a minimum staff of individuals disciplined in national marketing and sales, group purchasing, creative finance, technology and, as the needs of HBES 410 may dictate, logistics and/or other areas of business support expertise. The assets of HBE 412 consist primarily of liquid assets such as cash and receivables derived from annual participants' membership fees, markups or other commissions it earns on transactions between the suppliers of business support mechanisms 416 and participants 414, 414' and transactions between HBE 412 and customers 418 of the HBES 410. Since HBE 412 holds no inventory, it incurs none of the expense required for sustaining inventory or the capital-loss risk to the stockholder participants 414' in the event a particular HBES 410 should become unsuccessful. Other than a certain quantity of computer hardware and software upon which to implement its operations, HBE 412 possesses no other tangible assets such as land, buildings, equipment or vehicles. So configured, HBE 412 essentially functions to monitor and control the income and business support mechanisms streams between the participant's 414, 414', customers 418 and the suppliers of business support mechanisms 416.

Current US Cross Reference Classification (1):

705/26

Current US Cross Reference Classification (2):

705/27



L5: Entry 5 of 20

File: USPT

Feb 26, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6351738 B1
TITLE: Collective business system

Application Filing Date (1):
19990524

Brief Summary Text (9):

To sustain its operations, a trade association generally receives an initiation fee and/or a yearly membership fee (collectively "dues") from its members, and it may collect rebates or commissions from the purchasing plan suppliers.

Brief Summary Text (11):

A cooperative is a non-profit organization somewhat similar to a trade association. A significant difference between the cooperative and the trade association, however, is that with a trade association, the members have a non-equity position in the association, whereas in the typical cooperative the members will have an equity interest as all members of the cooperative own a portion of the cooperative. Generally, a cooperative only addresses one facet of business operation needs of interest to its members, e.g., purchasing of goods and services at advantageous prices. A purchasing cooperative is at risk in that it holds considerable assets in the form of inventory and provides credit to the businesses in the cooperative. In addition, the members of the cooperative risk loss of invested capital if the cooperative proves unsuccessful.

Brief Summary Text (12):

The cooperative utilizes its volume leverage with suppliers in purchasing products and services for less than the individual member company could obtain outside of the cooperative. The cooperative marks up the purchased products or services in order to cover operating expenses. Any net income achieved by the cooperative is then returned to the cooperative members in the form of a redistribution of profits or dividends. Like a trade association, cooperatives cannot exclude members on the basis of geography or create exclusive territories.

Brief Summary Text (18):

The trade organization imposes relatively low membership dues on its members. However, because initiation fees and annual membership fees are nominal, the trade organization lacks the ability to engage in offering its members national marketing capability, access to expensive technologies and cost-effective purchasing programs for major purchases due to a lack of capital. Furthermore, being non-profit, trade associations do not have the management mentality necessary to sustain major projects such as national sales and marketing. Today, they are of little help in enabling their small, independent members to compete with large national competitors.

Brief Summary Text (19):

Cooperatives, like trade associations, are hampered because they cannot carve out or assign geographic territories to their individual members and are limited to executing a single business function, e.g., purchasing of products and services or marketing.

Brief Summary Text (20):

An advantage exists, therefore, for a collective business system, which can enable independent business entities in a common field of endeavor to compete effectively with large nationally and internationally based competitors. The collective business system should be structured to include a substantially liquid asset based, for-profit business entity which can assign geographic territories of operation to its participants, as well as provide its participants with purchasing power leverage, discount capital financing, global marketing capabilities, access to high cost technology and a broad range of goods and services. The system should not impose burdensome dues or other fees on its members. And, for participants who are also shareholders in the for-profit business entity, the system offers additional financial rewards in terms of equity growth and dividend distributions.

Detailed Description Text (3):

For payment of dues, typically in the form of an annual membership fee possibly coupled with an initiation fee, the members 16, through trade association 12, are introduced to suppliers 14 of goods and services which are of particular interest to the members. To become a selected vendor having access to members 16, a supplier may provide the trade association with rebates, commissions or other incentives, which may be passed along to the members. The trade association 12 supports its operations by collection of dues from members 12 and any cash or equivalent funding it may receive from suppliers 14. In addition to its primary function of bringing together suppliers 14 with members 16, trade association 12 frequently provides its members with support and advertising programs, e.g., educational programs, preprinted marketing materials and group meetings to discuss common problems among the membership.

Detailed Description Text (4):

Once introduced via trade association 12, members 16 purchase selected goods and/or services from, and make payments directly to, suppliers 14. Trade associations are forbidden under a long established body of antitrust law from assigning unique geographic territories of operation for its individual members 16. Thus, members 16 are free to compete with one another in overlapping and even identical geographic areas such that the activities of one member 16 may detract from another nearby member.

Detailed Description Text (5):

Trade associations are substantially asset-free, i.e., they hold no real property or inventory and little, if any, other tangible property. Their limited income prohibits trade associations from pledging credit, which might otherwise enable members to purchase expensive technology or machinery at attractive financing rates. Each member 16 must therefore purchase from a supplier based upon the member's own creditworthiness rather than that of the trade association 12. The members 16 do not have any mechanism to pool their credit resources to leverage discount financing from suppliers 14 of expensive capital items, e.g., computer systems, vehicles and machinery, that are vital to the vitality and growth of the businesses of the individual members.

Detailed Description Text (7):

Unlike a trade association, the members 116 of cooperative 112 are all shareholders in the cooperative. Each member 116 thus has an equity interest in, i.e., owns a portion of, cooperative 112. Cooperatives generally service only a single aspect or facet of business activity that may be of interest to the members. For instance, cooperative 112 may provide its members 116 with either discounted goods/services or marketing/advertising support from suppliers 114. Unlike a trade association system, payment for transactions occurring between suppliers 114 and members 116 in a cooperative system passes first from the individual member 116 to cooperative 112 and then from the cooperative 112 to the individual supplier 114 (rather than directly between the member and supplier in the trade association system discussed above). The cooperative 112 sustains itself primarily from the markups it attaches